

file

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

15 AUGUST 1961
TOP SECRET

1. Berlin situation

Our latest information is that:

a) the East German and East Berlin populations are generally reacting with caution. [redacted]

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[redacted] reported some scattered expressions of open criticism and a few instances of antiregime incidents;

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b) East German Army elements comprising at least one rifle and one tank regiment may now be in the city. Elements of two and possibly three Soviet divisions moved out of their stations near Berlin on the 13th and are now deployed in small groups at outposts two or three miles outside the city and apparently encircling it;

c) a new East German decree, issued this morning, requires permits for West Berlin cars and motorcycles entering East Berlin--West German and Allied vehicles are apparently exempt;

d) reports of a discontinuation of communications--telephone, telegraph and postal--between East and West Germany appear to be premature;

e) from 350 to 500 refugees are believed to have escaped since the border was closed Sunday. [redacted]

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2. West Europe Socialist position on German problem

Western Europe's top socialists refused to give their full backing to the Berlin position of the West German socialist party at a conclave in late July attended by such leaders as Spaak, Gaitskell, Mollet and Erlander. There was much criticism of the Germans for their closeness to Adenauer on the Berlin issue and their failure to indicate what they consider negotiable.

3. Brazil-Argentina pushing plan for Berlin moratorium

They are seeking US acceptance of a scheme for a one-year freeze on the Berlin issue under the UN's aegis. The proposal would be brought up by Brazil alone at the September General Assembly. Quadros and Frondizi are contemplating attendance at the session if the proposal looks promising.

NOTES

A. Khrushchev has left Moscow for his vacation villa on the Black Sea. [REDACTED]

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B. Earlier this month Peiping asked Moscow to reduce its August jet fuel shipment in favor of more gasoline for civilian use. There is no indication, however, that Chinese Communist military flights have been cut. [REDACTED]

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C. Northern Rhodesia [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] in-
tensified violence, even "chaos similar to the Congo."

D. [REDACTED] Castro may not attend the Belgrade neutralist conference after all. Present plans call for President Dorticos and Foreign Minister Roa to attend. [REDACTED]

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E. Quadros has given the go-ahead to Hungary to send in the equipment and technicians to drill 2,200 water wells in Brazil's depressed northeast. [REDACTED]

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